

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 00677 151723Z

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12

NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 IOE-00 OIC-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /079 W

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P 151615Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5142

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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FODAG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNWFC, OCON

SUBJECT: WORKING GROUP ON WORLD FOOD COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

REF: A-STATE 010019, B-ROME 0201

1. IT NOW APPEARS THAT MEXICO WILL CHAIR WORKING GROUP MEETING,
DESPITE EXPECTED ABSENCE OF AMBASSADOR ARMENDARIZ. U.S. REPRESENTATIV
E

TO FAO CONVEYED U.S. VIEWS (REF A) TO WALTER ASTIE BURGOS, MEXICAN
ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE. ASTIE RESPONDED THAT MEMBERS OF GROUP 77
WORKING GROUP FOR THIS MEETING, IN THEIR SESSION OF JANUARY 14, SEEME
D

INCLINED TO LET MEXICO PROVIDE ANOTHER CHAIRMAN IN PLACE OF ARMENDARI
Z,
SPECIFICALLY ASTIE.

2. WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SECRETARIAT INFORMS US ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS
THAT FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA AND FAO COUNCIL CHAIRMAN BULA HOYOS
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MET WITH THIS GROUP-77 WORKING GROUP JANUARY 14 AND MADE EXTENSIVE

SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGES IN DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE ALONG LINES DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN FAO ROLE WITH RESPECT TO WFC, E.G., GIVING FAO CHARGE OF PREPARING WFC AGENDA. WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN TEXT OF SUGGESTIONS, WHICH ARE TO BE CONSIDERED FURTHER BY GROUP-77 WORKING GROUP AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 15.

3. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE SAID TO ASTIE, AS PROSPECTIVE ACTING CHAIRMAN OF GROUP, THAT RUMORS OF POSSIBLE NEW SUGGESTIONS ON RULES OR PROCEDURE WERE DISTURBING, BECAUSE WEO GROUP REPRESENTATIVES COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO RESPOND TO NEW SUGGESTIONS WITHOUT HAVING TIME TO CONSULT THEIR GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS FOR WHOM THEY ARE SPEAKING. ASTIE COMMENTED THAT NEW SUGGESTIONS WOULD CONFUSE AND DELAY PROCESS.

4. COMMENT: GROUP 77 WORKING GROUP APPEARS READY TO SPONSOR MAJOR NEW SUGGESTIONS WITHOUT REFERRING THEM TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS, EVEN THOUGH GROUP 77 WAS ORIGINALLY MAIN ADVOCATE OF STRONG WFC. PROPOSALS TO CHANGE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN FAO AND WFC PROBABLY WILL EXTEND BEYOND REASONABLE BOUNDS OF RULES OF PROCEDURE, AND PERHAPS IMPINGE UPON UNGA RESOLUTION. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW WFC WORKING GROUP ON RULES OF PROCEDURE CAN BE EXPECTED TO RESOLVE PROBLEM IN ITS ONE-WEEK SESSION BEGINNING JANUARY 19: IF GROUP 77 PERSISTS IN SPONSORING THESE SUGGESTIONS, IT MAY MEAN THAT WFC WORKING GROUP WILL HAVE TO MAKE COMPLETELY NEW BEGINNING. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME00677
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760015-0861
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760154/aaaabvlp.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORKING GROUP ON WORLD FOOD COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE
TAGS: OCON, UNWFC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006